

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please amend claim 1 to read as follows:**

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1. (Twice Amended) A liquid crystal display device comprising

a first transparent substrate and a second transparent substrate

arranged to confront each other, and

a liquid crystal component layer sealed between said first transparent

substrate and said second transparent substrate,

said first transparent substrate being provided with

a transparent insulating substrate,

a plurality of scan lines,

a plurality of signal lines provided perpendicularly to each of said scan lines,

a plurality of pixels arranged in matrix form surrounded by said scan lines and

said signal lines,

a plurality of common electrodes provided substantially

parallel at both sides of said signal lines,

pixel electrodes provided between said common electrodes at each

of said pixels,

switching elements connected to said signal lines that individually control

electric fields applied to said pixel electrodes of said pixels,

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a first alignment layer formed on the highest layer of said first transparent substrate,  
 a second alignment layer formed on the highest layer of said second transparent substrate,  
 said signal lines including adjacent regions, said signal lines and said adjacent regions defining signal line regions, and  
 said pixels including apertures, said apertures and a part of said pixel electrodes defining pixel aperture regions, alignment direction of said first alignment layer at said signal line regions differing from alignment direction of said first alignment layer at said pixel aperture regions, and  
 alignment direction of said second alignment layer at said signal line regions differing from alignment direction of said second alignment layer at said pixel aperture regions.

**Claim 24 has been amended as follows:**

24. (Amended) A liquid crystal display device comprising  
 a first transparent substrate and  
 a second transparent substrate arranged to confront each other, and  
 a liquid crystal component layer sealed between said first transparent substrate and said second transparent substrate,  
 said first transparent substrate being provided with:  
 a transparent insulating substrate,  
 pixel electrodes and common electrodes substantially parallel and alternately arranged on said transparent insulating substrate,

a plurality of pixels arranged in matrix form,  
scan lines and switching elements that individually control electric  
fields applied to pixel electrodes of said pixels,  
signal lines connected to said switching elements, said signal lines  
including adjacent regions, said signal lines and said adjacent regions defining  
signal line regions,  
common lines that supply a prescribed electric potential to common  
electrodes of said pixels and a first alignment layer formed on the highest  
layer; and  
said second transparent substrate being provided with:  
at least a second alignment layer on the highest layer, and a light-  
shielding layer having aperture regions of said pixels below said alignment layer,  
said liquid crystal component having a positive dielectric constant  
anisotropy,  
said first alignment layer and said second alignment layer  
undergoing an alignment process so as to have an inclination of any angle  $\theta$  which  
is neither parallel nor orthogonal to the longitudinal direction of said pixel  
electrode,  
said light-shielding layer being formed from a conductor and  
voltage is applied to said light-shielding layer such that the direction of liquid  
crystal molecules within said liquid crystal component layer in said signal line  
regions is aligned substantially perpendicular to said first transparent substrate.